

William Berkeley Lewis to Andrew Jackson, December 9, 1831, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

RECEIPT.1

1 It is interesting to examine the many receipted bills in the Jackson MSS. for wine and other liquor. They show that a large amount of liquor was consumed in the household of the President. Taking the year 1834 as an example, we find that on Jan. 13 the President paid Henry Toland, of Philadelphia, for two hogsheads of claret, one barrel of brandy, twenty baskets of champagne, one half pipe of sherry, and one barrel of gin—\$662. In April he bought in Washington two and a half barrels of ale, one dozen London porter, and one dozen old port wine. In May he bought five and a half barrels of ale, three dozen London porter, and two gallons of whisky. For June the only items are three gallons of Jamaica rum, at \$2 a gallon; and it is stated in a bill rendered in August that they were omitted in the last bill. As no June bill appears, it is clear that one was rendered and has been lost. In July Jackson left Washington for the Hermitage and did not get back until late in September. In August however the President's household in Washington ordered seven gallons of brandy and two of Holland gin. In October the orders came freely. They consisted of five gallons of brandy, four of Holland gin, three of Jamaica spirits, three bottles of Chateau Margaux, three bottles of Chateau Lafitte, one dozen of London porter, two barrels of ale, and one half barrel of lager beer. In November they included six gallons of brandy, and eight gallons of Holland gin. This was evidently the everyday supply. For festal occasions the cellar was replenished during this month by one quarter cask of superior sherry, twelve baskets of very superior champagne, PW "Joly", one barrel superior old Holland gin, one barrel of superior old "Coniac" brandy, and two casks of ordinary sherry. This wine came through Henry Toland, of Philadelphia, and the

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cost amounted to \$511.11. Toland seems to have acted merely as Jackson's agent in the purchase of wine, as in various other things. In December the orders included one dozen old port, one dozen Chateau Margaux, one dozen Sauterne, and two dozen London porter. It should be said also that, in the grocery bills, appear whisky and brandy. One bill, without date, has the following "List of Goods sent to Ripraps": sixty-six bottles of wine including Madeira, pale sherry, champagne, and "chateau", two gallons of brandy, two of whisky, and two of Holland gin.

December 9, 1831.

Recd. of A. Jackson five hundred and eighty nine dollars and fifty three cents, it being for 4 pipes of [Madeira] wine purchase[d] for him, per my order, by H. Toland of Phila.²

2 On the MS. the following is written:

"4 pipes Md. Wine

102

103

103

105

gal. 413—at 142 ½ cts—\$588.53

Portage— 1

\$589.53"

W B Lewis